

## Annex 2: Resolutions

2020/2/FRSG13 The **Working Group Elasmobranch Fishes** (WGEF), chaired by Jurgen Batsleer (Netherlands) and Pascal Lorange (France), will meet online from 15 – 24 June 2021 to:

- a) Address generic ToRs for Regional and Species Working Groups.
- b) Update the description of elasmobranch fisheries for deep-water, pelagic and demersal species in the ICES area and compile landings, effort and discard statistics by ICES Sub-area and Division, and catch data by NEAFC Regulatory Area. Describe and prepare a first Advice draft of any emerging elasmobranch fishery with the available data on catch/landings, fishing effort and discard statistics at the finest spatial resolution possible in the NEAFC RA and ICES area(s);
- c) Evaluate the stock status for the provision of biennial advice due in 2021 for: (i) skate stocks in the North Sea ecoregion, the Azores and MAR; (ii) catsharks (*Scyliorhinidae*) in the Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas and Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast ecoregions; (iii) smooth-hounds in the Northeast Atlantic; and (iv) tope in the Northeast Atlantic)
- d) Conduct exploratory analyses and collate relevant data in preparation for the evaluation of other stocks (Porbeagle in the NE Atlantic; and skates in the Celtic Seas and Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast ecoregions) in preparation for more detailed biennial assessment in 2022;
- e) Follow the outcomes of WSKATE and to make the best use of survey indices in the assessments where appropriate.
- f) Take note of the outcome of the proposed stand-alone expert meeting dealing with the issue of missing data in the Portuguese surveys and the solutions suggested.
- g) Collate discard data from countries and fleets according to the ICES data call. Follow recommendations from WKSHARK3 and 5 to address the following issues: data quality and onboard coverage; raising factors; discard retention patterns between fleets and countries; and consider the output of WKSURVIVE to address discard survival and advise on how to include discard information in the assessment and advice accordingly;
- h) Carry out exploration analysis of effort data for stocks where time-series of effort may be used to decide on the application of the PA buffer. The use of effort data analysed in other ICES working groups should be favored, liaise with WGMIXFISH and WGSFD.
- i) Further develop MSY proxy reference points relevant for elasmobranchs and explore/apply in MSY Proxies analyses for selected stocks;
- j) Further develop the ToR for a proposed joint ICCAT-ICES meeting on porbeagle and other pelagic sharks.
- k) Work intersessionally to draft/update stock annexes and develop a procedure and schedule for subsequent reviews.
- l) Evaluate available data at species-specific level within the common skate-complex (*Dipturus* spp.) stock units in order to further increase our understanding of each individual species and their current status."

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. The assessments must be available for audit on the first day of the meeting.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGEF will report by 9 August 2021 for the attention of ACOM.

### Generic ToRs for Regional and Species Working Groups

2020/2/FRSG01 The following ToRs apply to: AFWG, HAWG, NWWG, NIPAG, WGWIDE, WGBAST, WGBFAS, WGNSSK, WGCSE, WGDEEP, WGBIE, WGEEL, WGEF, WGHANSA and WGNAS.

#### The working group should focus on:

- a) Consider and comment on Ecosystem and Fisheries overviews where available;
- b) For the aim of providing input for the Fisheries Overviews, consider and comment on the following for the fisheries relevant to the working group:
  - i) descriptions of ecosystem impacts on fisheries
  - ii) descriptions of developments and recent changes to the fisheries
  - iii) mixed fisheries considerations, and
  - iv) emerging issues of relevance for management of the fisheries;
- c) Conduct an assessment on the stock(s) to be addressed in 2021 using the method (assessment, forecast or trends indicators) as described in the stock annex and produce a **brief** report of the work carried out regarding the stock, providing summaries of the following where relevant:
  - i) Input data and examination of data quality; in the event of missing or inconsistent survey or catch information refer to the ACOM document for dealing with COVID-19 pandemic disruption and the linked template that formulates how deviations from the stock annex are to be reported.
  - ii) Where misreporting of catches is significant, provide qualitative and where possible quantitative information and describe the methods used to obtain the information;
  - iii) For relevant stocks (i.e., all stocks with catches in the NEAFC Regulatory Area), estimate the percentage of the total catch that has been taken in the NEAFC Regulatory Area in 2020.
  - iv) Estimate MSY reference points or proxies for the category 3 and 4 stocks
  - v) Evaluate spawning stock biomass, total stock biomass, fishing mortality, catches (projected landings and discards) using the method described in the stock annex;
    - 1) for category 1 and 2 stocks, in addition to the other relevant model diagnostics, the recommendations and decision tree formulated by WKFORBIAS (see Annex 2 of [https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/Fisheries%20Resources%20Steering%20Group/2020/WKFORBIAS\\_2019.pdf](https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/Fisheries%20Resources%20Steering%20Group/2020/WKFORBIAS_2019.pdf)) should be considered as guidance to determine whether an assessment remains sufficiently robust for providing advice.
    - 2) b. If the assessment is deemed no longer suitable as basis for advice, consider whether it is possible and feasible to resolve the issue through an interbenchmark. If this is not possible, consider providing advice using an appropriate Category 2 to 5 approach.;
  - vi) The state of the stocks against relevant reference points;
 

Consistent with ACOM's 2020 decision, the basis for F<sub>pa</sub> should be F<sub>p.05</sub>.

    - 1) 1. Where F<sub>p.05</sub> for the current set of reference points is reported in the relevant benchmark report, replace the value and basis of F<sub>pa</sub> with the information relevant for F<sub>p.05</sub>

- 2) 2. Where  $F_{p.05}$  for the current set of reference points is not reported in the relevant benchmark report, compute the  $F_{p.05}$  that is consistent with the current set of reference points and use as  $F_{pa}$ . A review/audit of the computations will be organized.
  - 3) 3. Where  $F_{p.05}$  for the current set of reference points is not reported and cannot be computed, retain the existing basis for  $F_{pa}$ .
- vii) Catch scenarios for the year(s) beyond the terminal year of the data for the stocks for which ICES has been requested to provide advice on fishing opportunities;
- viii) Historical and analytical performance of the assessment and catch options with a succinct description of associated quality issues. For the analytical performance of category 1 and 2 age-structured assessments, report the mean Mohn's rho (assessment retrospective bias analysis) values for time series of recruitment, spawning stock biomass, and fishing mortality rate. The WG report should include a plot of this retrospective analysis. The values should be calculated in accordance with the "Guidance for completing ToR viii) of the Generic ToRs for Regional and Species Working Groups - Retrospective bias in assessment" and reported using the ICES application for this purpose.
- d) Produce a first draft of the advice on the stocks under considerations according to ACOM guidelines.
- i. In the section 'Basis for the assessment' under input data match the survey names with the relevant "SurveyCode" listed ICES [survey naming convention](#) (*restricted access*) and add the "SurveyCode" to the advice sheet.
- e) Review progress on benchmark issues and processes of relevance to the Expert Group.
- i) update the benchmark issues lists for the individual stocks;
  - ii) review progress on benchmark issues and identify potential benchmarks to be initiated in 2022 for conclusion in 2023;
  - iii) determine the prioritization score for benchmarks proposed for 2022–2023;
  - iv) as necessary, document generic issues to be addressed by the Benchmark Oversight Group (BOG)
- f) Prepare the data calls for the next year's update assessment and for planned data evaluation workshops;
- g) Identify research needs of relevance to the work of the Expert Group.
- h) Review and update information regarding operational issues and research priorities on the Fisheries Resources Steering Group SharePoint site.
- i) If not completed in 2020, complete the audit spread sheet 'Monitor and alert for changes in ecosystem/fisheries productivity' for the new assessments and data used for the stocks. Also note in the benchmark report how productivity, species interactions, habitat and distributional changes, including those related to climate-change, could be considered in the advice.

Information of the stocks to be considered by each Expert Group is available [here](#).